

Medina Raptor Center

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www.medinaraptorcenter.org

Fall 2007

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Dear Friends,

It was a busy summer and fall with squirrels and rabbits as well as many injured birds. We saw 200 patients in four months, including nestling birds of all kinds. We took in a group of four nestling Screech Owls when a tree was cut down and the mother was accidentally killed. Two others joined these four. We spent the summer watching these nestlings grow and learn to hunt on their own. All six Screech Owls were released back to the wild. We received ten young Kestrels from various nests. Usually we receive all the young Kestrels over a two-week period. This year, the first Kestrel arrived in May and the last one arrived in August. All ten were successfully released. Two young Green Herons (much smaller than Great Blue Herons) spent several weeks growing up with us and were released to the wild after conditioning them to proper heron etiquette.



In addition to all the nestling birds, we continue to see injured adult raptors. The most common cause of injury is being hit by a car. Raptors hunt rodents that are often eating food that has been thrown out of car windows. Raptors often hunt along roads and highways because it offers a good view and abundant prey. While a raptor is hunting, it is focused on its next meal and not aware of traffic.

We did see some unusual patients— a Broad Wing Hawk, Sharp-Shinned Hawks and an Osprey. We see lots of Red Tail Hawks, Coopers Hawks and Red Shouldered Hawks, but very few Broad Wing or Sharp-Shinned Hawks. It was interesting to be able to compare these hawks to our more common patients.

Thank you to all the people who have supported us – to keep our Peregrines happy with quail, our Osprey and Herons and Eagles happy with fish and the other raptors happy with rodents.

Laura Jordan

Educational Birds



We lost two of our faithful friends this summer – Bumbles, a Great Horned Owl, and Eclipse, a Barred Owl. Bumbles developed a cancerous tumor very suddenly. She had been with us since 1993. She had been hit by a car and was an older bird at that time. She was probably in her early twenties when she developed cancer. Bumbles loved outdoor programs and would sometime surprise us by hooting to her admirers.

Eclipse our Barred Owl, died from renal failure. He was found near Sandusky after being hit by a car on one of his first trips across a road in 1993. Eclipse had severe head trauma and eye problems resulting from his impact with the car and he was unable to be released so he became a wonderful and gentle educational helper.

Bumbles and Eclipse visited many senior citizens and schools. They met thousands of school children in their programs. Bumbles even helped to teach a senior biology class at a college. It was our great privilege to have these two very special birds in our lives. They taught us so much and we will miss them.

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened ----Theodore Seuss Geisel

“Operation Osprey” – A Wing and a Prayer

Injured birds of prey in Northeast Ohio are taking to the skies again ... even if they can't fly, thanks to some very special friends! When an injured bird arrives at The Medina Raptor Center, the hope and ultimate goal is to rehabilitate the bird and release it back to the wild. Sadly, some birds' injuries are permanently disabling and they cannot resume their lives back in the wild. These birds still have a very important job to do as ambassadors for their species. They help us teach respect for living things to both children and adults and they help people understand about wildlife, endangered species, the environment and the importance of conservation. Seeing these magnificent birds “up close and personal” often takes a person's breath away. There is something very special about looking into the eyes of an eagle or hawk, sensing the power of an owl or learning about the speed of falcons. And sometimes after rehabilitation by MRC, these ambassadors have to travel to permanent homes in other parts of the country. That's where their special friends rally to help.

Late last year, the Medina Raptor Center received an Osprey from another facility. Osprey are an endangered species in Ohio and are just starting to make a comeback like the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. They are magnificent birds that only eat fresh fish and are known for their spectacular dives completely under water to land their fish. Unfortunately, this Osprey had a severe wing injury that could not be repaired. The long, hard Ohio winters wouldn't be good for her as these birds all head south for the winter – to Florida, Cuba or even South America. Lucky for her, she had a permanent home waiting for her at Bush Wildlife Center in Jupiter, Florida. But getting her there could have been a problem. There is too much margin for error with commercial airlines and it's too long of a drive by car. That's where private pilots Curt Keal and John Pintar from Weltzien Skypark in Wadsworth stepped up to the plate and “Operation Osprey” began in earnest. They got a plane donated, filed a flight plan, organized their maps and donated their expertise as pilots to safely transport this precious cargo to Bush Wildlife Center. What a privilege it was to work with these two caring and dedicated pilots.

This was on the heels of another flight last fall when Dennis Taylor, a private pilot from Medina's Freedom Field, flew a Red Tail Hawk with permanent eye injuries (after being struck by a car) to her permanent home in New Hampshire. Not only is this Red Tail Hawk teaching people about raptors, she also thrilled people earlier this year with a long flight through Fenway Park to help the Boston Red Sox open the 2007 baseball season.

These pilots, by partnering with the Medina Raptor Center, are truly making a difference for wildlife. And that is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

What can you do to help?

How can you help raptors in your area? If you are receiving this newsletter, it means you have helped us at the Medina Raptor Center in some way. Perhaps you have been asking yourself if there are other ways you can help raptors right in your own backyard.

Some of the smaller raptors (Screech Owls and Kestrels) are cavity nesters. If you have a standing dead tree in your yard that is not in danger of falling on a power line or building, consider leaving it there. Insects, woodpeckers and possibly a Screech Owl will use it as a food source and home. Please be mindful of nesting birds in the springtime. After all, the nestling Screech Owls came to us because their nesting tree was cut down.

So please reconsider cutting any tree or bush down in the spring. Also, please consider carefully what you use on your lawns and what you use for pesticide and rodent control. These products are very deadly and will work their way up the food chain. Educate yourself on the safer products to use.

Educational Outreach

A vital facet of the Medina Raptor Center Program is the presentation of educational programs to schools, community organizations and businesses. So far in 2007, the MRC has educated over 15,000 people through formal education presentations and community exhibits. We have sixteen permanently disabled Educational Ambassadors who are the awe-inspiring teachers used in our educational presentations and outreach exhibits. Our programs promote stewardship of our environment and all of its inhabitants through raptor biology and ecology. Educational presentations can include lectures, slide shows and group discussions. We have a wide variety of interpretive educational topics and can create custom presentations upon request. If you know of a group that might be interested in a program, please contact us for fees and scheduling either through our website www.medinaraptorcenter.org or by calling 330-667-2386.

Thanks to all who help

Special thanks is extended to the dedicated veterinarians who make our work possible. And a very special thank you goes to Dr. Gary Riggs and his staff who make bi-monthly visits to our facility.

The support of money, supplies and equipment that we receive from the public is appreciated. We rely on individual contributions of both time and funds to succeed. Every dollar generously given and every hour contributed to our program directly aids in the return of birds to the wild for "A Return to Freedom." Your donations, sponsorships and programs are our primary means of support. All funding goes to care of our patients and permanent residents. We have no paid staff – all the staff is made of wonderful volunteers who are willing to take on anything.

The Akron Zoo has been wonderful in providing us fish to feed our herons. If you are cleaning out last year's food from your freezer, we can use fish, venison, rabbit, quail, muskrat or squirrel. Our Osprey and Eagles love Blue Gill, Bass or Trout. Our Turkey Vultures love venison. The hawks are partial to rabbit and squirrel. Fortunately, we do not have to buy rats but we do have to buy mice and quail as well as fresh fruit (apples, grapes) for our songbirds. Our food bill is close to \$10,000 a year. We are very lucky to get donations of cleaning supplies; there are still other things that we need on a daily basis. We need several extra large carriers for our eagles. Please check out our wish list on the website. Contact us if you have donations.

Raptor Sponsorship Program



If you want an opportunity to become directly involved with the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned birds, you can become sponsor of one of our sixteen program birds. Our program birds consist of four teams: the Owls (Mischief, Aurora, Aspen, and Cricket); the Hawks (Lazarus, Sky, Red, Cloud and Orion); and the Others (Matilda the Turkey Vulture, Henrietta the Great Blue Heron, Victory and Pitt Stop, the Peregrine Falcons and Feathers, the Kestrel) and our retired program birds (Sierra the Screech Owl and Victoria the Barred Owl). A sponsorship makes a very thoughtful gift for friends and family members. For a \$50 annual sponsorship, you will receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photo of the bird of your choice. For a \$100 annual sponsorship, you will receive a certificate of sponsorship, a photo of the bird of your choice and will have the opportunity to come to the Raptor Center and be photographed with the permanent resident of your choice.

By sponsoring one of our educational birds for yourself, your group or school or as a special gift for someone else, you are personally involved in our rehabilitation and educational efforts. Sponsors receive our newsletter, a photo of the bird of your choice, along with a biography and a certificate of adoption. Your gift will go toward the purchase of food and medications for the Center's patients and permanent resident.

\$50 annual membership: You will receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photo of the bird of your choice.

\$100 annual membership: You will receive a certificate of sponsorship with a photo of the bird of your choice. You will have the opportunity to be photographed with a permanent resident.

How You Can Help

The Medina Raptor Center is only able to provide medical care and rehabilitation services because of your support. Any generosity you extend is translated directly into care for the birds.

YES! I WANT TO HELP! Please accept the following donation: (Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law)

For the care of injured or orphaned birds:

\$200.00 _____ \$100.00 _____

\$50.00 _____ Other _____

Please check which bird is being sponsored:

Red Tail Hawk ____ Turkey Vulture ____ Rough Legged Hawk ____ Peregrine Falcon ____

Saw Whet Owl ____ Screech Owl ____ Red Shouldered Hawk ____ Barred Owl ____

Great Horned Owl ____ Great Blue Heron ____

_____ I would like to sponsor a bird for an individual, family or organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Your tax-deductible contribution will help support the work of the Medina Raptor Center:

Medina Raptor Center

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